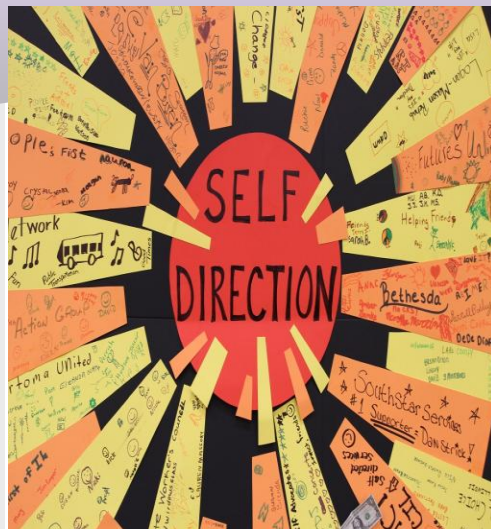


The Alliance News



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Vision

Our vision is for self-advocates to work together to get the support we need to live the life we want in the community.

Mission

Our mission is to speak up for ourselves and each other while working together to make changes in our communities and in Illinois.

The Alliance is proud to be an Initiative of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities



Alliance's Annual Rally

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

10am – 2pm (registration begins at 9.15am)

Doubletree Hotel 10 Brickyard Drive Bloomington, Illinois

See Page 7 for registration!

Don't delay...register today.

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance

PO Box 666 Park Forest, IL 60466 618.806.9431

Email: krescenebeck@gmail.com Website: www.selfadvocacyalliance.org

Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



On April 7, 2015, self-advocates from CTF's Advocacy Center in Charleston voted in their local election. Here's what they had to say about their "advocacy in action":

I was very happy to be voting because I can vote by myself I can make my own decisions. I enjoyed being photographed by our Vice President of Operations, Mr. Mike Brown.

~ Judy

On Tuesday, April 7th I got to vote. Voting makes me feel happy because I'm a part of something important. When we went to vote the people were nice and wanted to know my opinion. I enjoyed it and hope to continue to be able to vote.

~ Heidi

I voted today. I had to have help but I voted today. I had fun. I would do it again. I liked seeing the people there.

~ Amy

I felt happy and it felt good to vote. I voted for people who work with the schools. It was inspiring to have control over those decisions.

~ Matt

It felt good to vote. I like to go with my group. I enjoy making my own decisions.

~ Marilyn

I felt very enthusiastic to go to vote. It was a great experience for me to do. I really hope that I can go vote again.

~ Kim

I voted at the courthouse with Valerie. I had to wait my turn to vote but I really liked it.

~ Kendal

I voted at the courthouse. It was confusing at first but I got the hang of it. It was fun to do something new and have a say in what is going on in the town I live in.

~ Kathy

It was enjoyable and I would like to do it again someday. I enjoyed the company. Voting makes me feel good and very independent. The thing I like about voting is deciding, on my own, who to vote for. There were a lot of people there. I like when Amanda was there, helping me. I would like to continue voting in the future, thank you for helping me go vote!

~ Terry

How did I feel when I voted? I felt like a normal human being! Voting is an important thing for me to do because I am a part of our community.

~ Vickie

There were two older ladies that came over and let us vote. It was fun because we got to vote for lots of people. When I lived at Emerald we voted in the big dining room. We voted for senate and governor.

~ Barbie

I like voting. I enjoy making decisions for myself and choosing my local and national officials. I like seeing other people and discussing voting.

~ Rodney

I like voting. I would go vote again with my group if I was asked. I had a lot of fun and learned new things about the people I voted for. I loved meeting all of the new people. I like to talk to everyone and tell them about myself.

~ Miranda

I had a lot of fun voting today. Amanda helped me figure some things out. I was confused on parts of the ballot but I eventually understood what I had to do to get the job done. I had to make choices on who to vote for and it made me feel empowered. I would love to vote again sometime.

~ Melissa

More Advocacy in Action voting stories on the next page!

On April 7th, we performed our civic duty by going to the nearest polling place to share our vote with the city of Charleston. Voting gave us independence, a voice, and the opportunity to educate others.

Independence is important because it makes us feel self-sufficient. Voting gives us independence because we have to be knowledgeable about the candidates and topics being voted on. We have the freedom to make the choice to vote or not to vote. We also have the choice to cast our vote for who and what we desire. To be honest it makes us feel free.

Having a voice is important because it is a chance to express opinions. The act of voting, alone, gives us the opportunity to use our voice. Some of our peers have a harder time conceptualizing issues being voted on. We cast our vote in the honor of those that cannot vote. When we vote, we are not just voting for ourselves, we are doing it for others.

Educating others is important to voting because people need to know what is going on to cast a vote. It is necessary to teach voters about what is going on in the world, the people running, and how to vote. We learn all of this at the Advocacy Center CTF. That way, we can cast our vote based on whether or not we like the candidate's platform.

Overall, it is your right to vote. It gives us the freedom to express ourselves. It is our duty to ensure that we and our peers are educated about current events. We have come so far in America, that, no matter our gender, race, or ability, we have the duty, right, and privilege to vote.

~ Ravell

I enjoyed voting and making my own decisions. It makes me feel important. I feel like I matter and that people are going to listen to what I think. Everyone should vote because it makes you feel powerful.

~ Bryant

I had really hard time reading the names on the voting page and deciding on the people I wanted to vote for. When I voted I had to read the names, pick a person, and then mark down for who I wanted. I got see my house mates vote. We got to vote at the same place. I liked seeing other people vote. It would be cool to see other people vote from other cities, states and CTF houses. I would like to vote again sometime soon.

~ Brandy

Did You Know?

Alliance has representation on many committees and projects including

ADOPT (Asians with Disabilities Outreach Project Think Tank)

Community for All Coalition

Consumer Advisory Committee

DDD Advisory Committee

Envision Illinois

Illinois Imagines

LEND (**L**eadership **E**ducation in **N**eurodevelopmental and Related **D**isabilities)

Managed Care Work group

National Technical Assistance Center for Voting and Cognitive Access

SABE (Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered)

SUSO Planning Committee

Life Choices Project

Illinois Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities (DHS DDD) is in the process of increasing opportunities for community options and improving the quality of life for people with developmental disabilities no matter where they live in Illinois so that they

- are healthy and safe
- have real relationships with family and friends
- have a paying job if they want to work
- make decisions about their lives
- have opportunities to contribute to their community.

Mary Spriggs-Plossel is the Statewide Coordinator for Life Choices Project; she will be part of The Alliance's annual rally in Bloomington on July 8, 2015 to learn from self-advocates. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters. You can learn more about the project at www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=70455.



The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will turn twenty-five on July 26, 2015...and a big anniversary deserves a BIG celebration! That's why The ADA Legacy Project is partnering with individuals and organizations around the country to prepare for 2015. Check out www.adalegacy.com/ada25/ada-legacy-tour often to get updates and learn how you can get involved.

How will YOU celebrate?



Your Words, Our Image



Writers, editors, reporters and other communicators strive to use the most accurate terminology about people with disabilities. However, inaccurate, archaic and offensive expressions are still commonly used, perpetuating negative stereotypes and beliefs about people with disabilities.

Guidelines: How to Write and Report About People with Disabilities presents the latest terminology preferred by people with disabilities.

www.rtcil.org/documents/Guidelines%208th%20edition.pdf

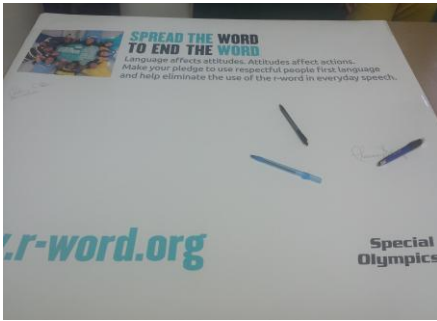
The Alliance Staff Contact Information

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Krescene Beck, Program Coordinator
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Vocational Voices recently had a booth at the Disability Awareness Fair at Chicago State University. They asked students and staff to sign the pledge to end the use of the R-Word as well as passing out bookmarks and flyers on using People-First language.

Thanks for Spreading the Word to End the Word!



In case you missed it

Missed the The Alliance's Operation Community Access Campaign webinar on Thursday, April 30, 2015? No worries...we can send you the PowerPoint that Tara Wickey and Leanne Roth used!

Just e-mail Krescene Beck at krescenebeck@gmail.com, and put Operation Community Access Campaign PowerPoint in the subject line.



Please register for The Alliance's Top Ten Tips for a Healthy Self-Advocacy Group on Tuesday, May 26, 2015 at 10am at

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/558269698626173953>

They say that health equals wealth, and a healthy self-advocacy group is priceless! Join Megan Norlin, Advocacy Coordinator for The Alliance, as she shares the "Top 10 Tips" for a healthy self-advocacy group.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Be a Part of Advocacy in Action by attending your local Advisory Council Meeting**North Suburban**

To Be Announced
Community Alternatives Unlimited
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL

North Central

Tuesday, June 2, 2015
10am
Freedom Hall (Morton Park District building)
349 W. Birchwood
Morton, IL

Northwest

Tuesday, May 12, 2015
4.30pm
Milestone Training Center
4504 Shepherd Trail
Rockford, IL

City of Chicago

Tuesday, May 12, 2015
UIC's Institute on Disabilities and Human Development (Auditorium)
1640 W. Roosevelt Road
Chicago, IL

Central Region

Thursday, May 14, 2015
12.30pm
Centrum Building
319 East Madison
Springfield, IL

Southern Region

Wednesday, May 20, 2015
10.30am
Bel-Air Bowl (downstairs meeting room)
200 South Belt West
Belleville, IL

South Suburban

Thursday, May 21, 2015
2pm
Suburban Access
900 Maplewood Avenue
Homewood, IL



The Alliance’s Annual Rally 2015

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

Doubletree Hotel

10 Brickyard Drive

Bloomington, IL

10am – 2pm (registration begins at 9.15am)

Space Is Limited. Each agency/self-advocacy group will be limited to a total of 10 (ten) participants (self-advocates and allies/support staff combined) attending.

Number attending: Self-Advocates _____ Allies/Support People _____ TOTAL _____

Agency/Self-Advocacy Group Name _____

Names of Self-Advocates (please print clearly): _____

Names of Allies/Support People (please print clearly):

Contact Person

Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Accommodation Requests

___ Dietary requirements – please specify. *NOTE:* Any physician-prescribed dietary requirements will be accommodated; food preferences will not be honored.

___ Other requests – please specify _____

Please register Friday, June 26, 2015 by mail, email, or fax to:

Krescene Beck Mail: 6754 Middlegate Lane, Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Email: krescenebeck@gmail.com Fax: 217.875.8899